

## **CHAPTER 2E. GUIDE SIGNS – FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS**

### **Section 2E.05 Retroreflectorization and Illumination**

#### **Standard:**

**All guide signs shall be retroreflective regardless of any illumination.**

**The following overhead guide signs shall be illuminated:**

- A. Exit direction signs**
- B. Minimum of one advance guide sign for exit**
- C. Advance and exit direction signs for left exits**
- D. Diagrammatic signs**
- E. Lane designation signs at route splits**
- F. Signs at ramp splits**
- G. Signs on roadways with four or more through lanes**
- H. Regulatory and warning signs**
- I. Signs with obstructed or limited sight distance (signs with less than 1,200 feet (370 m) of continuous, unobstructed sight distance)**
- J. Signs on roadways in areas with two or more through lanes in each direction with traffic volumes at, near, or exceeding capacity, truck traffic of 10% or more, and a speed limit of 45 mph (70 km/h) or more**

#### **Guidance:**

All other overhead guide signs, other than span wire installations, should be illuminated when practical.

### **Section 2E.08 Memorial Highway Signing**

#### **Addition to Standard:**

**When installed along a roadway rather than the recommended off-roadway memorial plaques, memorial/dedication signs shall be ground-mounted and designed with the following letter sizes and series: 6" (150 mm) D for conventional roads and 8" (200 mm) Emod for expressways and freeways. Memorial/dedication signs shall not be installed on overhead sign assemblies. Memorial/dedication signs shall not be installed on facilities leading to the highway actually being memorialized. Memorial/dedication names shall not appear on guide signs approaching the exit or turn for the memorial highway. Memorial/dedication signs shall be limited to one installation per direction on the highway being memorialized or dedicated.**

**Support:**

If a roadway qualifies for guide signs and is named after a person, such as Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd., the signs are not considered memorial or dedication signs. In this case they would be considered guide signs (as would any other Street Name sign) and designed in accordance with the guide sign requirements for the appropriate type facility.

**Section 2E.09.A Amount of Legend on Guide Signs****Standard:**

**In rural areas where there are no major destinations (i.e. control city, county seat, other city or significant destination), the street name shall be used on the guide sign. In urban areas where there is a combination of a street name and a destination on the guide sign, the street name shall be above the destination on the sign.**

**When two or more same type routes run concurrently, the lower numbered route shall be the first (left-most) shield of the same type routes and shall follow the sequence of smallest route number to largest route number.**

**Support:**

For example, if I-85, U.S. 29, U.S. 52, and U.S. 70 routes are required on a guide sign, the route shields would be placed in that order.

**Standard:**

**If a “TO” is required above a shield on a sign for trailblazing, placement of that shield shall be a lower priority than a designated route on the facility.**

**Support:**

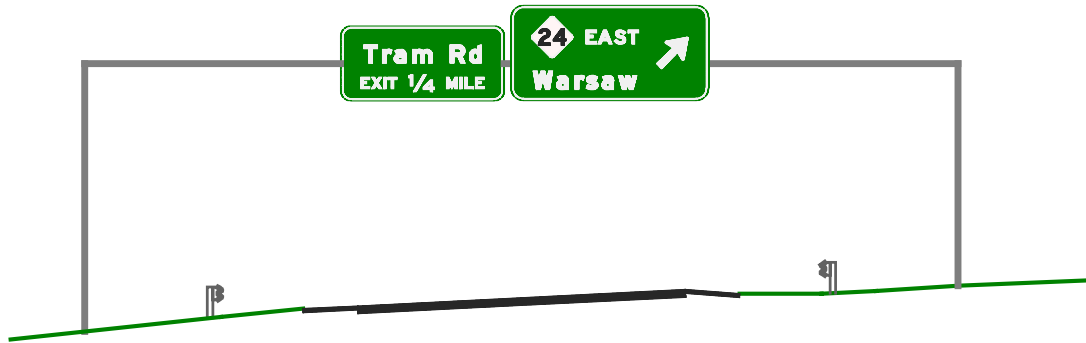
For example, if U.S. 1 and TO I-40 are required on a guide sign, the route shields would be placed in that order.

**Section 2E.10 Number of Signs at an Overhead Installation and Sign Spreading****Guidance:**

The concept of sign spreading should not preclude the installation of additional signs on an overhead sign assembly as follows:

- A. It is often advantageous to include an advance guide sign for the next interchange beside the exit direction sign on the overhead sign assembly, especially if the next interchange is within 3 miles (4.8 km).

## Overhead Sign Installation



- B. The advance guide sign should be installed as close as practical to the 1 mile (1.6 km) and 2 mile (3.2 km) locations measured from the theoretical gore for the exit. If the location falls in an area where the visibility of the sign is obstructed or limited, such as just beyond an overpass, the sign or sign assembly should be installed approximately 50 feet (15 m) in front of the overpass or far enough beyond the overpass to ensure 1,000 feet (300 m) of sight distance. In general, signs should not be installed on structures unless the structure was originally designed to include sign installations.

**Section 2E.11 Pull-Through Signs**

Support:

Pull-through signs are beneficial in additional situations such as in locations where ground-mounted confirming route signs are not installed because of noise or barrier walls or limited lateral space, and in situations where engineering judgment decides. Pull-through signs with down arrows are beneficial in additional situations such as for pull-through lanes beside one or more lanes requiring signs with down arrows.

**Section 2E.13 Size and Style of Letters and Signs**

Standard:

Size of cardinal direction shall be determined based on size of route shield as follows:

**Cardinal Direction Text Sizes**

Size of Shield	Next to Shield	Above Shield	BUSINESS
48" (1200 mm)	18" (450 mm)	15" (375 mm)	12" (300 mm)
36" (900 mm)	15" (375 mm)	12" (300 mm)	10" (250 mm)
24" (600 mm)	10" (250 mm)	8" (200 mm)	8" (200 mm)

**The following are exceptions to the minimum sizes shown in Tables 2E-2 and 2E-4:**

- **Table 2E-2, Item L, Exit Only Panels:** The minimum word height shall be 15" (375 mm).
- **Table 2E-4, Item L, Exit Only Panels:** The minimum word height shall be 15" (375 mm).
- **Table 2E-4, Item M, Diagrammatic Signs:** The minimum lane width shall be 6" (150 mm); lane line segments shall be 1.5" x 6" (375 mm x 150 mm); and the arrowhead dimension in the table does not apply (see Section 2E.19 of this document for diagrammatic sign and arrow details).

**Other than these exceptions, the letter sizes in the MUTCD tables shall be the minimum size used.**

### **Section 2E.15 Sign Borders**

#### **Standard:**

**The sign material in the area outside of the corner radius shall be trimmed, except for overhead span wire signs and sign overlays where square corners are standard.**

#### **Guidance:**

For guide signs, the following border widths should be used:

Border Width		
Border Size		Major Lettering on Sign
Type I Only	0.5 Inch (13 mm)	4" (100 mm) B through 5" (125 mm) B
		4" (100 mm) C
		4" (100 mm) D
		4" (100 mm) E
Type III Preferred	0.75 Inch (19 mm)	6" (150 mm) B
		6" (150 mm) C
		5" (125 mm) C through 6" (150 mm) D
		5" (125 mm) E
	1 Inch (25 mm)	8" (200 mm) B through 10" (250 mm) B
		8" (200 mm) C through 10" (250 mm) C
		8" (200 mm) D
		6" (150 mm) E through 8" (200 mm) E
		6" (150 mm) Emod
	1.5 Inches (37 mm)	12" (300 mm) B
		12" (300 mm) C
		10" (250 mm) D through 12" (300 mm) D
		10" (250 mm) E
		8" (200 mm) F through 10" (250 mm) F
	2 Inches (50 mm)	8" (200 mm) Emod
		18" (450 mm) B
		18" (450 mm) C
		18" (450 mm) D
		15" (375 mm) E
	3 Inches (75 mm)	10" (250 mm) Emod through 16" (400 mm) Emod
		No Series B
		No Series C
		No Series D
		18" (450 mm) E
		18" (450 mm) Emod and Larger

<b>Corner Radii</b>	
Lesser Dimension of Sign	Corner Radii
0" – 15" ( 0 mm – 375 mm)	1.5" (37 mm)
16" – 36" (400 mm – 900 mm)	3" (75 mm)
42" – 60" (1050 mm – 1500 mm)	6" (150 mm)
66" – 84" (1650 mm – 2100 mm)	9" (225 mm)
90" and larger (2250 mm and larger)	12" (300 mm)

<b>Signs with Recessed Borders</b>			
Lesser Dimension of Sign	Corner Radii	Border	Corner Radii
0" – 12" (0 mm – 300 mm)	0.375" (9 mm)	0.375" (9 mm)	1.5" (37 mm)
13" – 29" (325 mm – 725 mm)	0.375" (9 mm)	0.625" (16 mm)	1.5" (37 mm)
30" – 35" (750 mm – 875 mm)	0.5" (13 mm)	0.75" (19 mm)	1.875" (47 mm)
36" – 47" (900 mm – 1175 mm)	0.625" (16 mm)	0.875" (22 mm)	2.25" (56 mm)
48" and larger (1200 mm and larger)	0.75" (19 mm)	1.25" (31 mm)	3" (75 mm)

## **Section 2E.16 Abbreviations**

### **Standard:**

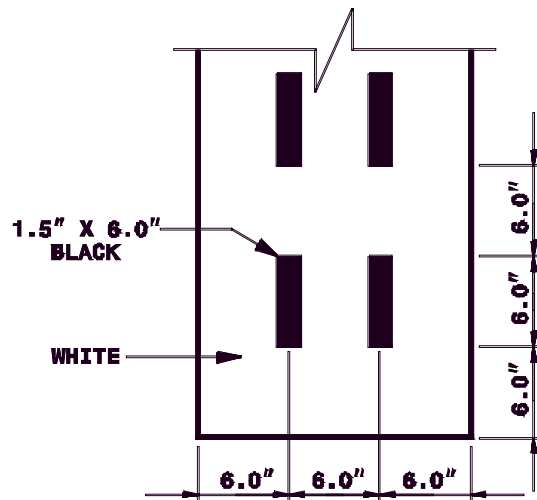
**Periods shall not be used on guide signs, unless required for initials of a named roadway.**

### **Option:**

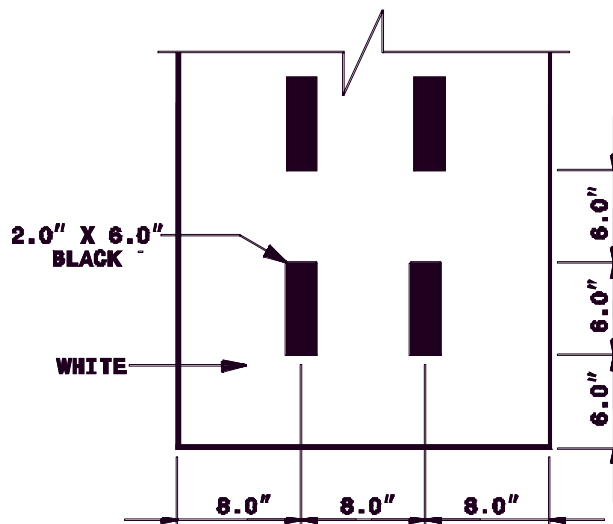
Periods may be used for initials on memorial/dedication signs.



## STANDARD DIAGRAMMATIC SIGNS ARROW DIMENSIONS



## OVERSIZED DIAGRAMMATIC SIGNS ARROW DIMENSIONS





Support:

The following figure should be used instead of Figure 2E-5 in the MUTCD:

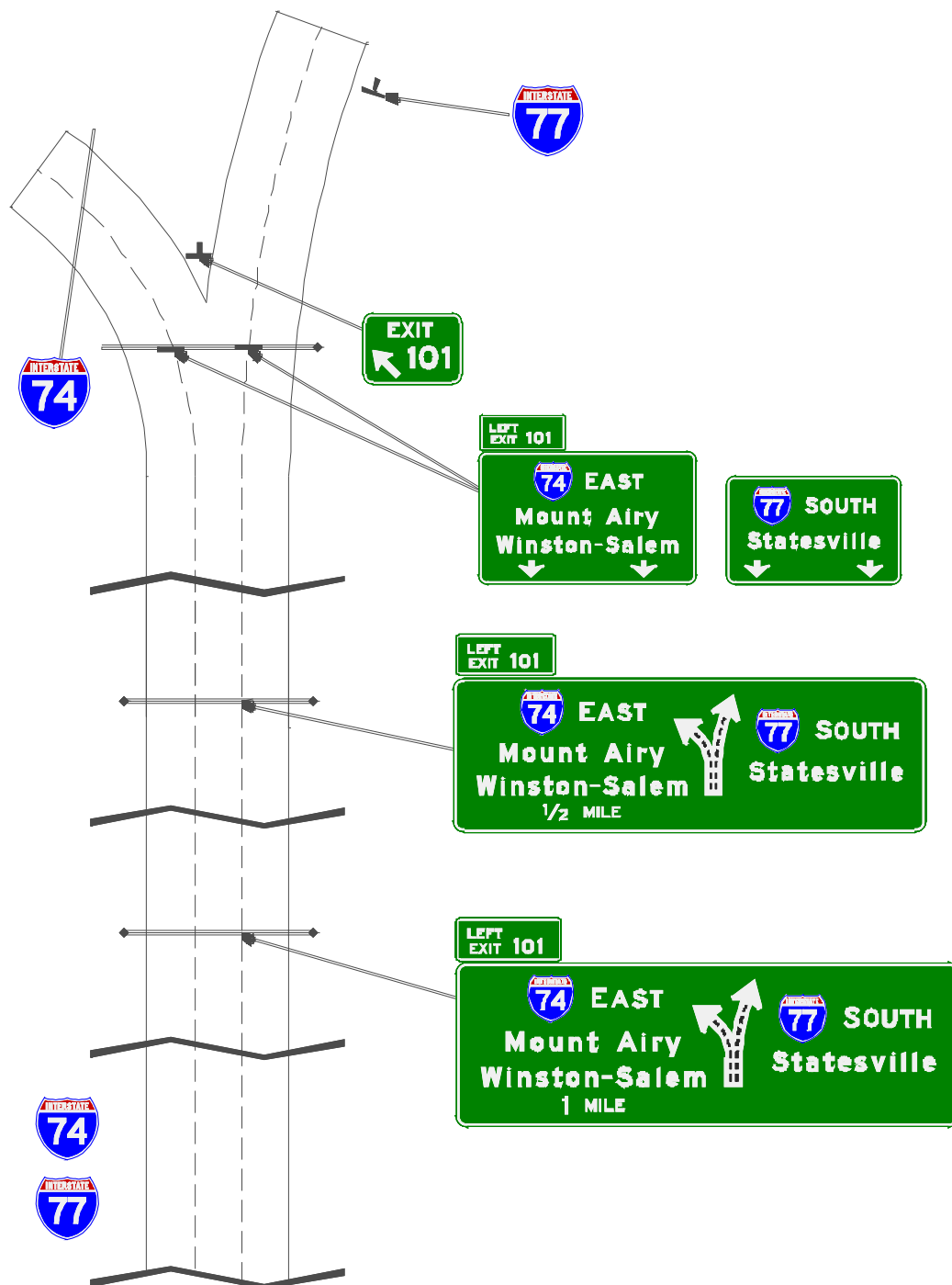


Figure 2E-5. Diagrammatic Signs for Splits with Optional Lane

## **Section 2E.20 Signing for Interchange Lane Drops**

### **Guidance:**

Advance Guide signs for lane drops within 0.5 miles (0.8 km) from the interchange should not contain the distance message.

The lane that is dropping should be a minimum of 1,800 feet (550 m) of continuous full lane to be considered a lane drop. If the lane that is dropping is less than 1,800 feet (550 m), the exit should not be signed as an EXIT ONLY.

When possible, a minimum of two advance signs should be installed in advance of the exit direction EXIT ONLY sign.

## **Section 2E.23 Lateral Offset**

### **Guidance:**

The lateral offset (measured from the edge of travel lane to the closest edge of sign) for ground-mounted signs with breakaway or yielding supports on a freeway or expressway facility should be at least 18 feet (5.5 m) from the edge of travel lane without barrier or guardrail protection, however, 30 feet (9 m) of lateral offset is desirable. If a ground-mounted sign is protected by barrier or guardrail, the offset should be 6 feet (1.8 m) behind the face of guardrail or barrier, which is, in general, approximately 18 feet (5.5 m) from the edge of travelway.

For ramp signs, the lateral offset for ground-mounted signs with breakaway or yielding supports on a freeway or expressway facility should be at least 12 feet (3.7 m) from the edge of travel lane without barrier or guardrail protection, however, 18 feet (5.5 m) of lateral offset is desirable.

### **Standard:**

**For ramp signs at freeway-to-freeway interchanges, the lateral offset for ground-mounted signs with breakaway or yielding supports shall be 18 feet (5.5 m) minimum, unless the sign is protected by guardrail or some other protective barrier.**

### **Support:**

Section 2A.19 of this document contains additional information regarding lateral offsets for freeway and expressway signs.

### **Section 2E.23.A Support Classification, Design, and Installation**

#### **Support:**

The following are the support types commonly used: 2 lb (0.9 kg) U channel post, 3 lb (1.4 kg) U channel post, simple steel beam support, breakaway steel beam support, barrier sign support assembly (small and large), wood support, and overhead sign support. In sandy soil, 4" x 4" (100 mm x 100 mm) wood supports are often used in lieu of U channel posts. Larger wood supports are used for temporary sign installations and sometimes for permanent sign installations. All supports other than U channel posts are designed for the specific sign, location (s-dimensions), and wind speed that applies.

#### **Guidance:**

All ground-mounted signs, other than small signs installed on yielding supports, should be installed on breakaway supports unless the sign is protected by guardrail or other crashworthy barrier.

#### **Option:**

Square tubes may be used in lieu of 3 lb (1.4 kg) U channel posts or 4" (100 mm) wood supports. They may also be used in sandy soil or in concrete islands for high hit sign installations, such as Keep Right signs (special parts required for this application).

#### **Standard:**

**Support design, fabrication, construction, and erection shall meet all requirements of the latest edition of the NCDOT Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures.**

**The following shall be used to determine the type and size of support:**

- **2 lb (0.9 kg) U channel - Maximum of 12" (300 mm) wide and 48" (1200 mm) in height. Example: Reference Location (milemarker) sign installation. Used only for single post installations. See Roadway Standard Drawing No. 904.40(S).**
- **3 lb (1.4 kg) U channel and 4" (100 mm) wood supports – Maximum of 30 square feet (2.2 square meters) of signs. Use maximum of two 3 lb (1.4 kg) U channel posts or 4" x 4" (100 mm x 100 mm) wood supports for Type D, E, and F sign installation. See Roadway Standard Drawing No. 904.50.**
- **Simple steel support – Size steel designed for the actual sign and location. Simple support shall only be used when protected by guardrail or other appropriate crashworthy barrier. See Roadway Standard Drawing Nos. 901.70, 903.10, and 904.10.**
- **Breakaway steel support – Size steel designed for the actual sign and location. See Roadway Standard Drawing Nos. 901.70, 903.10, and 904.10.**

- **Barrier sign support (small)** – Used for signs up to 9 square feet (0.8 square meters) installed on barrier with maximum wind velocity of 80 mph (130 km/h). See Roadway Standard Drawing No. 903.30.
- **Barrier sign support (large)** – Used in situations where support anchorage can be constructed within barrier section. See Roadway Standard Drawing No. 903.40.
- **4" x 6" (100 mm x 150 mm), 6" x 6" (150 mm x 150 mm), 6" x 8" (150 mm x 200 mm) wood supports** – Size wood designed for the actual sign and location. Support shall be drilled to be breakaway unless protected by guardrail or other appropriate crashworthy barrier. See Roadway Standard Drawing Nos. 901.70, 903.20, and 904.10.
- **8" x 8" (200 mm x 200 mm) wood supports** - Use for temporary installations of large signs when determined to be an option by the support design program for the actual sign and location. These supports are not breakaway. These supports shall be protected by guardrail or other appropriate crashworthy barrier. See Roadway Standard Drawing Nos. 901.70, 903.20, and 904.10.

The standard for exit gore sign installations is as follows:

- A. All exit gore signs that are 84" x 60" (2100 mm x 1500 mm) or smaller shall be installed on one S5x10 (S130x15) breakaway support. The exit numbers that fall into this category are:
  - All single digit and double digit exits without a suffix.
  - All single digit exits with a letter suffix except 2A, 4A, and 9A.
  - The following triple digit exit #s: 101, 110-119, 121, 131, 141, 151, 161, 171, 181, and 191.
- B. All double digit exits with a letter suffix are too large for a single support. These and other exits not listed in Item A shall be installed on two breakaway supports as designed with the North Carolina support design program.

#### **Section 2E.25 Route Signs and Trailblazer Assemblies**

##### **Standard:**

The official route sign for N.C. routes shall be a diamond shield. A three-digit N.C. Route sign shall be at least 36" x 36" (900 mm x 900 mm) in size on ground-mounted and overhead guide signs.

**Option:**

A 36" x 36" (900 mm x 900 mm) three-digit N.C. Route sign may be used on f-assemblies.

**Support:**

North Carolina Roadway Standard Drawing No. 904.50 contains information regarding installation of route signs and trailblazer assemblies. North Carolina Roadway Standard Drawing 904.80(S) Sheets 1, 2, and 4 contain information regarding locating route signs and trailblazer assemblies.

**Section 2E.27 Interchange Guide Signs****Support:**

North Carolina Roadway Standard Drawing 904.80(S) Sheets 1 through 10 contain information regarding locating guide signs for interchanges.

**Section 2E.28 Interchange Exit Numbering****Standard:**

**The reference location sign exit numbering method shall be used for numbering of interchanges. Exit numbers shall be determined or approved by the Traffic Engineering Branch.**

**The optional consecutive exit numbering method shall not be used for numbering of interchanges in North Carolina.**

**Section 2E.30 Advance Guide Signs****Option:**

Where it is not possible or practical to install the 2 mile and 1 mile advance guide signs because of limited distance between interchanges or engineering judgment, other advance mileage locations may be used to ensure two advance notifications. In rural areas one advance guide sign may be used.

**Guidance:**

Rounding of mileages on signs should be in  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile increments.

**Section 2E.32 Other Supplemental Guide Signs****Guidance:**

Use of Supplemental guide signs should be limited; however, if more than two supplemental signs are required, combining supplemental sign messages onto one sign should be considered, such as in the following example:

**Section 2E.32.A Industrial Park Signs****Option:**

Industrial park signs may be erected to provide directional information to industrial parks. The request for these signs will be sent to the appropriate for approval. The request will include a map of the existing Industrial Park showing the requested sign locations and information concerning the number of occupied buildings space. All costs associated with these signs, including any NCDOT administrative costs, fabrication, installation, and maintenance of the signs, will be the responsibility of the Industrial Park.

**Standard:**

**Industrial Parks in urbanized areas shall meet the following requirements:**

- 1. Urbanized areas are defined as areas where facilities generally function at or near traffic capacity with higher density of roadside development. Urbanized areas are generally characterized by facilities that have closely spaced interchanges (less than 3 miles apart) or a higher density of driveway access points.**
- 2. The park shall be located within 3 miles of the freeway, expressway or other roadway on which the signs are requested.**
- 3. For freeways (roads with full control of access, such as Interstate routes), the park shall have at least 5 occupied buildings with an occupied building space of 1,000,000 square feet.**

4. For expressways (divided roads with some partial control of access), and all other roads, the park shall have at least 3 occupied buildings with an occupied building space of 500,000 square feet.

**Industrial Parks located outside of urbanized areas shall meet the following requirements:**

1. Locations outside of urbanized areas are defined as areas where facilities generally function below traffic capacity with a lower density of roadside development. Locations outside of urbanized areas are generally characterized as rural areas with facilities that have greater interchange spacing (more than 3 miles apart) or lower density of driveway access points.
2. The park shall be located within 10 miles of the freeway, expressway or other roadway on which the signs are requested.
3. For freeways (roads with full control of access, such as Interstate routes), the park shall have at least 3 occupied buildings with an occupied building space of 500,000 square feet.
4. For expressways (divided roads with some partial control access), and all other roads, the park shall have at least 2 occupied buildings with an occupied building space of 250,000 square feet.

Guidance:

Installation of Industrial Parks signs is dependent upon the proposed signs meeting longitudinal spacing requirements. If spacing between existing signs is not sufficient to allow the installation of a new sign, the Industrial Park sign will not be installed.

**Standard:**

The Division Engineer or his designated representative shall have final authority to determine the actual number and location of the signs. NCDOT shall reserve the right to remove or replace any Industrial Park signs where the requirements for the signs are no longer met or where the location is interfering with the placement of any standard regulatory, warning, or guide signs. If any Industrial Park sign is damaged or needs to be replaced, it shall be the responsibility of the Industrial Park to initiate the request for replacement to the Division Engineer or his designate representative.

Any exceptions to this section shall be submitted to the State Traffic Engineer for review and approval.



### **Section 2E.32.B Agricultural Tourism Signs**

#### **Option:**

The NCDOT in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA & CS) may allow the installation of Agriculture Tourism signs along State Highways to promote tourism for businesses that provide tours and on site sales or samples of North Carolina agricultural products.

#### **Standard:**

**Agricultural Tourism signs shall meet the following requirements:**

- **The owner of the business whose name appears on an agricultural tourism sign shall certify in writing that the business is in full compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, rules and ordinances, including all applicable license and permit requirements.**
- **Agricultural tourism signs that are installed on exit ramps shall have a panel with the mileage to the facility and a directional arrow. Mileage panels and directional arrows are also required on sign installations (which display the facility name) used as trailblazers on conventional roadways.**
- **The agricultural tourism facility shall be open for customers and tourists ten (10) full months per year, and at least four days per week to total a minimum of 32 hours per week.**
- **The agricultural tourism facility shall offer a tour to the public. The term tour is defined as an activity that is:**
  - (a) Directed by a knowledgeable employee (tour guide) of the business.**
  - (b) Educational, informative, and entertaining in nature.**
  - (c) Of sufficient length to clearly describe the materials, equipment, and processes used in the production of agricultural products by the facility.**
  - (d) Conducted regularly during open business hours or, in the absence of regular tour times, upon customer demand within a reasonable time [within thirty (30) minutes of request].**



- **The agricultural tourism facility shall have a permanent sign posted in a prominent and visible location that states the name of the business with the days and hours of operation. The agriculture facility shall also have a permanent sign posted on the premises stating the times that tours are offered, or stating that tours are available upon request. The sign shall be posted in a conspicuous location that is visible to customers entering the facility.**
- **The agricultural tourism facility shall provide on-site public restroom facilities, drinking water suitable for public consumption, and an on-site telephone available for public use.**
- **The agricultural tourism facility shall offer samples and/or sales of North Carolina agricultural products.**
- **The agricultural tourism facility shall be able to accommodate customers in a permanent, all weather structure, and have adequate on-site parking.**
- **The names of all agricultural tourism facilities using the same intersection, freeway interchange, or ramp for access shall appear only on a single sign for each direction of travel. In order to ensure the safety of the travelling public by limiting distractions and confusing signage, a maximum of four (4) qualifying agricultural facility names may appear on the sign. Multiple agricultural tourism signs shall not be allowed for any direction of travel of an interchange, intersection, or ramp.**
- **All costs associated with the requested agricultural tourism signs will be at the expense of the requestor. This includes administration, investigation, design, materials, equipment, fabrication, inspection, installation, and maintenance, as well as any replacement costs as required to repair the signs and supports due to damage or deterioration. The NCDOT Traffic Engineering and Safety Systems Branch will provide the estimate for the initial installation after approval by NCDA & CS. The cost estimate will include sign installation on steel supports for freeway and expressways and sign installations on u-channel posts on ramps and conventional roads, except where due to the sign message, the size of the sign requires steel supports. Sign locations behind adequate guardrail may be installed on non-breakaway steel supports. The requester may elect to hire a qualified contractor to install the signs rather than reimbursing NCDOT for the installation. The selected contractor shall be approved and licensed to do work in the State of North Carolina and shall follow all federal and state standards and specifications. Such a contractor must obtain prior approval from NCDOT of the materials and methods to be used. Sign installations are subject to inspection, approval, and acceptance by NCDOT.**

- **If the initial agricultural tourism sign request is for multiple agricultural facility names to appear on a shared sign, the facilities will be required to equally share the initial cost of the sign installation, maintenance costs, as well as any replacement costs required to repair damage or deterioration.**
- **Agricultural tourism sign designs shall conform to NCDOT standards. The word “TOURS” is required on the signs that include the name of the business. The word “WINERY” shall not be permitted on any signs. The NCDOT reserves the right to disallow other words or messages if deemed inappropriate. Attached are example Agricultural Tourism sign designs and cost estimates for your reference. The actual department furnished sign designs and cost estimate will vary depending on the name of the facility (which determines the size of the sign) and type of installation(s).**
- **A participating agricultural tourism facility that changes ownership shall provide written notice to the NCDA & CS and the appropriate NCDOT Division Engineer within 30 days of the transfer of ownership. To retain signs, the new owner is required to sign a new agreement with the NCDOT. The new owner shall be responsible for all maintenance and replacement costs associated with the signs and supports due to damage, deterioration or loss, or name change at no expense or liability to the NCDOT. If the signs include other facility names or are later upgraded by other facilities, all maintenance and replacement costs required to repair damage or deterioration shall be shared equally by all facilities listed on the signs.**
- **An agricultural tourism signage agreement is not transferable to another business, facility, or location.**
- **Agricultural tourism signs shall not be placed where prohibited by local ordinance. If a trailblazer sign or other required sign cannot be installed due to a local ordinance or other limitation, no agricultural tourism signs will be allowed and the facility cannot participate in the program. All required signs must be installed to provide guidance to the facility.**
- **The NCDOT shall not maintain a waiting list for the program if the maximum number of four facility names has been met.**
- **The NCDOT will not require removal or covering of agricultural tourism signs if the facility is closed for 3 months or less for renovation, remodeling, or repair providing all program criteria will be met upon reopening. In cases where the facility is closed for more than 3 months but less than one year, the NCDOT will require temporary removal or covering of the signs, providing all program criteria will be met upon reopening. If the facility is closed more than one year, the signs shall be removed and the facility will be required to re-apply. The new request (application) will be handled in the same manner as a request from a new applicant. All costs for sign coverings, removals, and re-installations shall be paid for by the agricultural facility.**

- **Should a participating agricultural tourism facility cease to be in compliance with G.S. 106-22.5 and/or the criteria herein, the NCDA & CS shall notify the business owner that it will be given 30 days to bring the facility into compliance or its agricultural tourism signs shall be removed. If the signs are removed and the facility later applies for reinstatement, the request will be handled in the same manner as a request by a new applicant. If it is determined that a facility is not in compliance twice within a two year period, its agricultural tourism signs shall be permanently removed.**
- **The NCDOT reserves the right to cover, relocate, or remove any agricultural tourism signs for maintenance or construction operations, or when deemed to be in the best interest of the NCDOT or the traveling public, without advance notice. The NCDOT reserves the right to remove signs when roadway improvements or changes in the roadway cross-section or configuration will no longer accommodate the existing signs. If existing signs no longer meet the Department's size and design requirements for an upgraded roadway and existing signs are removed, the facility may request to upgrade their signs, provided that minimum spacing is available on the upgraded roadway. All upgrade costs shall be paid for by the facility. A new Agreement may be required.**
- **The NCDOT has the responsibility and authority to relocate or remove agriculture tourism signs if a need for a higher priority regulatory, warning, or guide sign is identified.**
- **The NCDOT reserves the right to terminate this program or any Agreement for agriculture tourism signs, or any portion thereof, by furnishing the business written notice of such intent not less than 30 calendar days prior thereto.**
- **As described in General Statute 136-30 (a), (b), and (d), the NCDOT has the authority to control all signs within the right of way of the State Highway System.**

Option:

The maximum distance that an agricultural tourism facility may be located from the initial interchange or turn from Interstate, US, or NC primary route, containing the agricultural sign, shall not exceed fifteen (15) driving miles via paved public roads. Consideration may be given to a facility where less than ¼ mile of the driving miles is via an unpaved publicly maintained gravel or soil road. If the requester desires freeway sign installations, and all safety, spacing, and application criteria are satisfied, signs shall be installed at the nearest interchange to the facility. If requested and approved, signs shall be installed from the nearest Interstate, US, and/or NC primary route.

A qualifying agricultural tourism facility may apply to have their name added to an existing agricultural tourism sign, providing the maximum number of four facility names has not been met. The replacement sign(s) will include the names of all the agricultural facilities that were previously displayed, in addition to the new facility name. The requesting facility will be required to pay the entire cost of the updated replacement sign(s) and supports. All facilities listed on the sign will be required to equally share maintenance costs, as well as any sign and support replacement costs required to repair damage or deterioration.

If the Agricultural facility desires, the sign may include a logo/emblem provided by the facility, unless a standard logo has been determined and/or approved by the NCDOT (ex. the logo for Vineyard facilities). Graphics for any non-standard logo shall be designed by the facility and provided to the department electronically and on paper for approval. The size of the logo/emblem may not exceed 60" (width) x 30" (height) on freeway installations, 40" (width) x 30" (height) on expressway and 32" (width) x 15" (height) on conventional and ramp installations.

#### **Standard:**

**The application and implementation procedures for applying for a Agricultural tourism sign are as follows:**

- (1) An agricultural facility seeking agricultural tourism signs or revisions to existing signs must complete an application form available from the NCDA&CS. The application form must be completed in its entirety.**
- (2) The applicant shall include an NCDOT county map clearly depicting the requested sign location(s) and the location of the facility. This map can be obtained online at [http://www.ncdot.org/planning/statewide/gis/GIS\\_mapping.html](http://www.ncdot.org/planning/statewide/gis/GIS_mapping.html) or by contacting NCDOT at 1-877-DOT-4YOU.**
- (3) The agricultural facility must submit the application form with appropriate documentation to the NCDA&CS, Agritourism Office, 1020 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1020. Any additional paper correspondence shall also be directed to this address.**
- (4) The NCDA&CS will review the application, visit and inspect the agricultural facility, verifying facility accommodations, days and hours of operation, appropriate tours are offered, and that all other criteria are met. NCDA&CS will make a recommendation based on fulfillment of the program requirements to the NCDOT State Traffic Engineer.**
- (5) If the agricultural facility is recommended for the Agricultural Tourism Signage Program by NCDA&CS, the NCDOT Regional Traffic Engineer (or designate) will conduct a field investigation to verify that adequate spacing, right of way, and sight distance are available to safely install the signs. If these installation criteria are met, the NCDOT Division Traffic Engineer (or designate) will perform the field work to gather the survey data for the sign supports. The NCDOT Signing Section will design the signs, support systems, and prepare the cost estimate and agreement.**

- (6) The NCDOT Division Engineer (or designate) will administer the agreement, and after receiving payment, will order and coordinate the installation of the signs.
- (7) The NCDA&CS Agritourism office will handle all correspondence with the facility concerning the application.
- (8) Any appeals to decisions shall be made in writing to the NCDA&CS. NCDA&CS will coordinate with NCDOT to determine final decision of appeal.

Support:

See General Statutes 106-22.5, and 136-30(a), (b), and (d).



**EXAMPLE FREEWAY SIGN**



**EXAMPLE TRAILBLAZER  
SIGN USED WITHIN ½ MILE**

#### **Section 2E.32.C Highway Patrol Station Signs**

**Standard:**

**When highway patrol stations are signed on expressways or freeways that do not have reference markers, the message shall be HIGHWAY PATROL STATION NEXT RIGHT.**

**When used on freeways or expressways that have reference markers, the message shall be HIGHWAY PATROL STATION EXIT XX.**

**Section 2E.34 Exit Gore Signs**

Support:

See Section 2E.23.A of this document for information regarding sign supports.

**Section 2E.36 Distance Signs**

Standard:

**Destinations listed on distance signs shall be cities, intersecting routes, or significant destinations as determined by the NCDOT. The distance stated on the sign shall be to the center of the city. The preference for destinations on these signs shall be as follows: control city, county seat, other city or significant destination, and intersecting route. Names of communities shall not be listed on distance signs.**

Guidance:

A distance sign for a metropolitan city should not be installed closer than 30 miles (50 km) from the center of the city. A distance sign for other cities, destinations, or intersecting routes should not be installed closer than 10 miles (16 km) from the center of the city, destination, or intersecting route.

**Section 2E.54 Reference Location Signs**

Option:

In urban areas or areas determined to have high volume of disabled vehicles, reference location signs may be installed at 0.2- or 0.5-mile increments. These reference location signs may include the route and the cardinal direction.

Guidance:

On urban loops not designated with a cardinal direction, reference location signs should be installed at 0.2-mile increments. The reference location signs should include the route.

## Section 2E.55.A Signing at the State Line

### Standard:

On freeways, the WELCOME TO NORTH CAROLINA (I2-2) sign shall be erected at or near the State Line facing traffic entering the State. It shall be located as close to the State Line as possible. No other sign shall be within 800 ft (245 m) in advance of or 400 ft (120 m) beyond the I2-2 sign.



When erected at the State Line, the I2-2 sign shall be part of an assembly with a STATE LINE (I2-3) sign, and a County (I2-7) sign. When the I2-2 sign must be located beyond the State Line, it shall be erected alone, more than 800 feet (245 m) from the State Line, without the State Line or County signs. A second assembly, made up of a NORTH CAROLINA STATE LINE (I2-1) sign and a COUNTY (I2-7) sign shall be erected at the State line (see North Carolina Roadway Standard Drawing No. 909.60(S), Sheet 1).



On expressways, an assembly made up of the I2-2, I2-3 and I2-7 signs shall be erected at the State Line, facing traffic entering the state (see North Carolina Roadway Standard Drawing No. 909.60(S), Sheet 2).

### Support:

See Sections 2B.36A, 2B.36.B, 2B.36.C, 2B.36.D, 2D.48.A, 2D.53F, 2E.55.A, and 7B.15 for additional information regarding state line signing.

**Section 2E.60 Future Interstate Route Signs****Option:**

Facilities that are opened to traffic and will eventually be designated as interstate routes, but do not currently meet all interstate classification requirements, may be signed as future interstate routes.

**Standard:**

**If the interstate shield is desired on the sign, it shall not contain the message INTERSTATE within the shield and the word FUTURE shall be placed above the shield. These installations shall be on green background guide signs rather than on standard F assembly installations. Upon completion of the route upgrade or corridor completion, the FUTURE panel shall be removed or overlayed.**

**If used, the FUTURE message shall be above the cardinal direction. Confirming route markers with the FUTURE message shall be installed on a green background.**

